



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Randy Smith

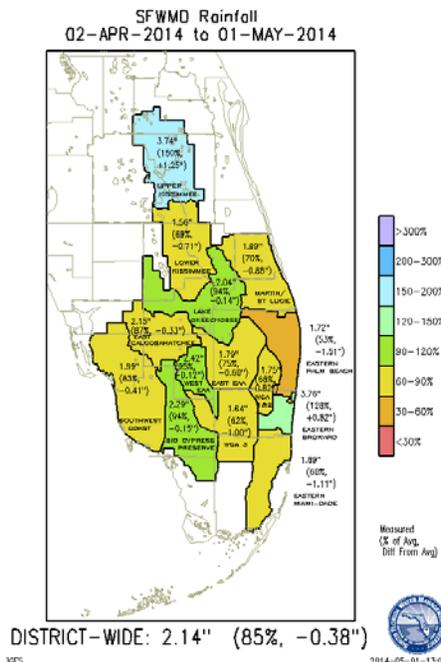
South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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April Rain Falls Slightly Below Average *Water managers prepare for the wet season*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – South Florida’s dry season decline in water levels continued with below-average rainfall in April, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) water managers continue working to prepare the system for the start of the wet season.

“As in March, April experienced dry conditions with just enough rain to prevent water levels from falling too quickly,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Our focus now is to continue balancing flood control and water supply operations so that water levels are positioned to accommodate wet season rainfall.”

District-wide rainfall for April averaged 2.14 inches, representing 85 percent of average,

or 0.38 inches below average. Eastern Palm Beach County was the driest portion of the District, with 1.72 inches of rain, representing 53 percent of average, or 1.51 inches below average. Eastern Miami-Dade County, the Southwest Coast and Martin and St. Lucie counties also experienced drier conditions.

Eastern Broward County and the Upper Kissimmee Basin were the only areas in the District, from Orlando to the Florida Keys, to experience above-average rain.

Overall, South Florida’s dry season has seen slightly below-average rainfall, with 12.88 inches District-wide, representing 91 percent of average, or 1.23 inches below average.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.07 feet NGVD today, which is 0.56 feet below its historic average for this date. The lake received 2.04 inches of direct rainfall in April, representing 94 percent of average, or 0.14 inches below average.

South Florida’s Dry Season
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>November – May</i>• <i>About 18 inches of rainfall is the average</i>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i>• <i>March, April and May are the driest months because evaporation is highest</i>

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.